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DR. ALBERT SCHÄFFLE.

WE translate the following note from the *Berliner Volkszeitung*:

"Dr. Schäffle, eminent as an economist and sociologist, died in Stuttgart on Christmas eve, 1903. He was born in Suabia, in the town of Nürtingen, November 24, 1831. At the early age of seventeen years he entered the University of Tübingen. His first student year fell at the time of the revolution of 1848, which, especially in south Germany, led to great agitation. Schäffle took an active part in the political movements. He resolved to join a number of his fellow-students in the struggle which was waged in Baden, and to espouse the cause of the people. He was already on the way to the seat of war when the news of the suppression of the popular uprising arrived.

"After ending his studies, he devoted himself to journalism. In the *Schwäbischer Merkur* in Stuttgart he found employment until the year 1860. At this time he was called to the University of Tübingen as "Ordentlicher Professor" of political economy and administration. In 1868 he accepted a call to the University of Vienna. During his professorship in Tübingen he did not hold himself aloof from political life. He was a member of the Landtag of Würtemberg, and also of the German Tariff Parliament. During his residence in Austria he also had opportunity to share in political activity. In 1871 he was invited to the position of minister of commerce in the cabinet of Count Hohenwart, which was entirely under the control of the Czech element. His entrance into this ministry made him an object of serious suspicion from the side of the Germans. The ministry lasted only nine months; it was defeated in October, 1871. Schäffle withdrew from Austria and made his permanent residence in Stuttgart, where he devoted himself exclusively to science.

"He was an unusually fruitful author, producing a large number of excellent works, among which are several of permanent value. His writings treated both theoretical and practical questions. In the work *Bau und Leben des socialen Körpers* he produced a system of sociology conceived in the most comprehensive spirit. Especial mention should be made of his widely read work, *The Quintessence of Socialism*. In it he presented, in clear and succinct form, an interpretation of the principles of socialism, and he gave to the interpretation a thoroughly

objective character. He thereby removed many false notions of socialism which up to that time were current in popular, and even in scientific, literature. Karl Höchberg, the son of a Frankfort banker, bought ten thousand copies of this book and distributed them among prominent persons—scholars, civic officials, great manufacturers, and others—in order to acquaint them with a just account of socialistic arguments.

"The last publications of Schäffle were devoted to the conflict between the Agrarians and the Protectionists. His monographs, *Ein Votum gegen den neuesten Zolltarif* and *Die agrarische Gefahr*, belong among the ablest attempts to deal with the tariff question. It is difficult to classify Schäffle's position in the science of political economy. He does not belong to either of the existing schools. He has always maintained an independent attitude. Even among those who differ sharply with his opinions it has always been admitted that his writings were in many ways instructive and stimulating."

It should be added that the prevailing fashion of abusing those sociologists who have made much of biological analogies, or even of the "organic concept," betrays a state of mind which resembles nothing so much as a child's fear of the dark. Schäffle contributed the most dignified, the most elaborate, and the most permanently useful interpretation of social functions that we have in terms of physiological analogy. The abuse and ridicule heaped upon his work have always gauged more accurately the dulness of his critics' perceptions than any real fault in his rendering. There will always be room for difference of opinion about the expediency of using biological figures in explaining social phenomena. There has never been the slightest real justification for forcing into Schäffle's terms the fantastic and misleading meanings which the atrophied imagination of overzealous literalists has encountered in them. It was not Schäffle, but his readers, who turned illustrative forms of expression into perversions of reality. There have been indications for several years that his real services to social science are presently to receive proper recognition.

ALBION W. SMALL.

SPENCER, THE MAN.¹

OF Spencer the dictum that "a man's life is his work" was singularly true. He perforce lived apart; he never courted publicity. Without an effort to parade his personality, he waited twenty years for

¹ Abstract of an address at the Spencer Memorial Meeting, University of Chicago, January 7, 1904.